

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
August 3, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the workshop meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 8:00 p.m. on August 3, 2015.

ROLL CALL

The following attended the meeting:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager
Tom Simonson, Asst. City Manager/Economic Development Director

Ramsey County
Board of
Commissioners: Commissioner Blake Huffman

Ramsey County: Bruce Thompson, Director of Property Management
Sue Nemitz, Library Director

HGA Architects: Victor Pechaty, Architect

DISCUSSION REGARDING RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY DESIGN

Commissioner Huffman thanked the Council for this special meeting to review a revised design of the new library. At the community meeting, library officials heard many of the same concerns expressed by the Council. It is important that the County reach agreement with the City to avoid scheduling setbacks that will impact costs. The current library is sold to the Mounds View School District, effective January 2017.

Mr. Thompson stated efforts have been made to address the concerns expressed by the Council: 1) exterior color; 2) increased parking; 3) connection to upper level parking lot; 4) view from Victoria Street; and 5) moving outdoor space to northeast corner.

Mr. Victor Pechaty showed slides that describe the changes. The northeast corner has been redesigned to allow a pass-through from the plaza of the existing library to the new library entrance. A drive has been created that parallels the entrance drive to the north and could connect to a sidewalk to the east entrance. Staff parking will be dedicated at the ice arena, and staff will enter the new library at the northwest corner of the building. The number of parking

stalls in front of the building has been increased to 75. The northeast corner will be a designed plaza with decorative pavers, plantings, bike racks. This can all be accomplished at grade. There is also a plaza space along the south property line along Highway 96 with landscaping to create a view from the highway.

Councilmember Johnson expressed concern about staff parking at the arena and having to cross Victoria with the increase of traffic to reach the building. She emphasized that it will be important to have safety features along Highway 96 and Victoria with the number of people coming through this campus. Ms. Nemitz responded that a crosswalk will be requested on Victoria. There is not a large number of staff. She added that public reading counts at the library in the summer have been under 75. If the upper parking lot can be used for overflow, this plan can work.

Mayor Martin stated that traffic speed limits do not work in such a short length of roadway and suggested calming measures to be used on the ring road.

Mr. Pechaty described the revised existing exterior design that will fit better with the other buildings in the Commons Campus, particularly with the use of brick accent features. He compared the new library building setbacks to the new building being constructed on Highway 61 in White Bear Lake that was mentioned by the Council at the last meeting. The White Bear building is 10 feet from the road and more than 40 feet high. The closest setback for the library to Highway 96 is 23.5 feet, and is only 17 feet high. The chiller for the new building is being moved to the roof, and there is definitely room for a sidewalk and plantings.

Councilmember Wickstrom suggested that instead of grass, native flowers be planted because they would hold up better with less maintenance. Mr. Pechaty responded that the plantings used will add to and enhance the plantings already being used on the campus. The landscaping features are place holders until their landscape architect determines exact distances and placement of new trees and plantings.

Mayor Martin asked if the sign on Victoria will be replaced. Mr. Pechaty answered that it has not been determined whether the sign will be replaced or modified. The current location of the sign works well with the new building. Mr. Simonson added that the City's sign consultant is working with the County on placement, size and needed information for the sign.

Councilmember Quigley suggested that the sign will have to include more information due to the users on the site.

Mayor Martin agreed and stated the sign will need to identify users on the site, both the library and school district. She expressed support for the improvements presented but noted that there will be some concern regarding the size of this building. That is why she previously suggested considering two stories and not one.

Mr. Pechaty responded that a two-story building was studied extensively. The difficulty is the challenge for contemporary library programming. It is a functional problem of staff efficiency in

the current library that the County is looking to correct. There is also a cost factor regarding stairs, exits and accessibility.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she does not favor the box-like style, but the colors are more coordinated with the rest of the campus. She requested that particular attention be paid to planting good replacement trees and not just one kind. Mr. Pechaty stated that the landscape architect has looked at the oak trees on the site, and many of them are not healthy.

Commissioner Huffman added that landscaping will be reviewed by the City as the project moves forward. Mr. Schwerm noted that landscaping is one of the last phases of the project to be done and review of a landscaping plan is typically not reviewed until final approval of the development.

Mayor Martin asked if the chiller would be so noisy that it disturbs enjoyment of the plaza. Mr. Thompson stated that there are things that can be done to make the chiller more energy efficient and quieter. However, a key feature is that the chiller will sit much lower with a brick wall around it that will make it quieter.

Mayor thanked Mr. Pechaty for accommodating concerns expressed by the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.